

From: daniel@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:32am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

The current "Proposed Settlement" for the Microsoft case is insufficient. It will not end in any significant change in the way Microsoft does business. I feel that as long as the company is allowed to bundle their applications with their Operating System they will always be able to maintain their monopoly , and artificially eliminate their competition.

The status quo is a very powerful weapon in the desktop market. It's mainly because most people are to scared, or intimidated to try anything other than what is bundled with their computer. This isn't Microsoft fault, but they have taken advantage of it by bundling applications into their OS. I don't feel this topic has been address properly. The key reason that Netscape failed as a company was because Internet Explorer was given away and was bundled with Windows. If these two factors are not address, then Microsoft will continue to maintain they monopoly. In fact, Windows XP should be examined very closely, it has many applications bundled just as Internet Explorer was bundled with Windows 98. Where these applications are included specifically to stop competing products, not to make Windows look more attractive as a product.

I believe that Microsoft should be forced to realize source code to their OS. Without charge to competing products, including open source offering such as Wine (www.winehq.com). This is important to allow for a stable platform of competition. I realize that this can only be implemented as a punishment .

Microsoft should be broken into two companies, one for applications and one for their OS . This is not an extreme solution. This would force Microsoft to improve the quality of their OS. May people believe that Microsoft produces a quality OS, which is wrong. They produce an OS that is such a security hazard many countries decline to use it. As we have seen with many worms and viruses , a person using Window should be prepared to share all of their information with the rest of the internet. Yet, not other OS has the same problem. This alone should be construed as harm to consumers, and adequate reason for the company to be broken up.

I would be very disappointed to see Microsoft get off without punishment. The current "Proposed Settlement" contains far to many loopholes for Microsoft to continue it's bad and harmful behavior.

Sincerely

Daniel Walker